

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An animated toy figure (1) includes a loudspeaker (44) and mechanical drivers (38, 40, 42, 56) for actuating body parts such as its mouth (12) to simulate animation. A multimedia home computer (30) synchronizes actuation of the toy's moving parts with an audio output provided by the computer through a binary, drive control code array (134).

5 This array may be derived from a text file based on predefined rules and speech synthesized using a multimedia sound subsystem (122). The movement of the toy's body parts such as its mouth (12) can be synchronized with the speech of the figure toy without predefining the contents of the speech. Users can input or program their desired audio output for the figure toy through computer controlled devices such as keyboard (30b) or CD-ROM. Stationary or
10 motion pictures can be created the computer's monitor (30c) in coordination with the sound and animation effects of the toy. A speech recognition system (130) on the computer enables the toy to respond to word commands from children.

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